



YOLO COUNTY LIBRARY

# REFLECTION AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOPS

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## ADAPTIVE

Adapt Family Literacy Workshops by listening, reflecting, and modifying to provide workshops designed and implemented with the values and cultures of the families they serve.



"Through reflection, we can examine our thoughts and feelings about the experience and identify the [actions] that best meet the family's goals for self-sufficiency, growth, and development."

Parlakian, R. *The Power of Questions*. 2001. *Zero to Three*

## CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE



"Culturally responsive programs are those that are designed for a specific population and grounded in that group's needs, values, and perspectives. To improve their effectiveness...programs... may be culturally adapted, meaning that some program elements, such as language or example scenarios, are modified to better meet participants' cultural norms and values."

Hutchful, E. *"Culture is Healing: Removing barriers facing providers of culturally responsive services."* Center for the Study of Social Policy, January, 2024.

## METHODS

NATURALISTIC APPROACH

CREATE A SAFE SPACE

PEER GROUP SUPPORT

REFLECTION PRACTICES

Reflection encourages learners to create goals and develop self-advocacy. Reflection exercises help create a safe space and shared experience.

- What do you remember about your reading experiences when you were a child?
- What does your family enjoy doing together?
- What does learning together look like for your family?
- Reflect on the positive: Tell us one thing that benefitted you from this experience.
- Reflect on a positive challenge: Tell us one thing that you overcame (ex: getting the school telephone # to report absences).

## REFLECTION & CONNECTION

- The practice speaking will build advocacy skills and learning opportunities.
- Check in with learners individually to make sure they feel safe and have a way to "pass" if needed.
- Brainstorm as a group and allow people to pitch in with their ideas.
- Connect their experiences learning in the Family Literacy workshop to their children's learning at school.
- Achievements in Family Literacy workshops build parents' connections and social capital - building their confidence to engage and advocate for their children



*Through the practice of Reflection workshops address the whole person including the cultural environment.*

## TIPS & TAKEAWAYS



Cultural context is important to consider at all phases of the Family Literacy workshop. Build relationships and allow the "whole person" to be present. Stay in touch - Follow up with how their input helps shape future workshops and opportunities.

- The best facilitator will speak the participants' first language and share the same cultural background. They will have training and skills in creating safe environments and providing trauma-based services.
- Allow library staff to have agency and bring their cultural knowledge to the planning, implementation, and assessment.
- Plan for multiple methods of reflection by both participants and program staff.